

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 4-5 and 25-27 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 and 6-24 are canceled. Applicants note that Claims 6-19, 21-21 were previously withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-5 and 25 are allowed, and that Claims 26-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the Examiner's indication of Allowable Subject Matter and in response to each of the Examiner's remaining rejections given in the Office Action, although Applicants do not acquiesce in the propriety of the rejections, for purposes of advancing prosecution, Applicants cancel Claims 1-3 and 6-24, and Applicants rewrite Claims 26-27 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request prompt issuance of pending, allowable Claims 4-5 and 25-27.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/985,852

Q67040

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

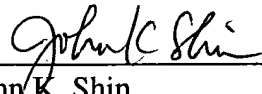
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER



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